

Remarks

The Applicant has carefully read and reviewed the Office Action mailed December 28, 2004, and the references enclosed therewith. Claims 25-28 and 31-35 were rejected. Claims 31-33 and 35 have been amended. Claims 25-28 and 34 have been canceled. New Claims 42-44 have been added. Claims 31-33, 35, and 42-44 are now pending in the application.

Claim Rejection – 35 USC § 103

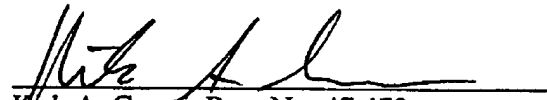
Claims 25-28 and 31-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (US 6,185,063) in view of Wiseloge (US 6,061,197). Claims 25-28 have been canceled.

Cameron in view of Wiseloge fails to disclose all of the elements of amended independent claim 31. Specifically, neither Cameron nor Wiseloge disclose a guard band located between two regions of adjacent data tracks.

For the aforementioned reasons, claim 31 is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record, therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested. Claims 32, 33, 35, and 42-44 are dependent claims which ultimately depend from claim 31. Claims 32, 33, 35, and 42-44 are thus allowable as dependent claims depending from an allowable independent claim and providing additional limitations thereto.

Conclusion

For these reasons, Applicant respectfully asserts that the present claims particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which is regarded as the invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31-33, 35, and 42-44 is respectfully requested. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and favorable action with respect to the present application is requested.

Date: 5-18-05
Kirk A. Cesari, Reg. No. 47,479
Seagate Technology LLC
1280 Disc Drive – SHK2LG
Shakopee, MN 55379-1863
Telephone: 952-402-3534
Fax: 952-402-2657